IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at specification page 13, line 1, as follows:

According to the data recording method according to the present invention, excellent characteristics can be obtained in recording data into a super-resolution type optical recording medium. In this case, it is preferable that the value of the recording power is set to be at least 0.5 mW higher and at most 2.0 mW higher than a value of recording power with which the carrier/noise ratio will be substantially saturated. When the value of the recording power is set thus, recording can be performed surely in a region where the carrier/noise ratio is substantially saturated, without setting the recording power to be higher than necessary.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at specification page 13, line 25, as follows:

According to the data reproducing method according to the present invention, excellent characteristics can be obtained in reproducing data from a super-resolution type optical recording medium. In this case, it is preferable that the value of the reproducing power is set to be at least 0.1 mW higher and at most 0.3 mW higher than a value of reproducing power with which the carrier/noise ratio will be substantially saturated. When the value of the reproducing power is set thus, reproducing can be performed surely in a region where the carrier/noise ratio is substantially saturated, while suppressing the reproduction deterioration phenomenon.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at specification page 21, line 8, as follows:

The dielectric layer 32 is preferably set to be not thinner than 5 nm and not thicker than 100 nm, and more preferably set to be not thinner than 20 nm and not thicker than 100

nm. This reason is as follows. When the dielectric layer 32 is thinner than 5 nm, there is a fear that the dielectric layer 32 ~~33~~ may be broken at the time of decomposition of the noble metal oxide layer 23 so that the dielectric layer 32 ~~33~~ cannot protect the noble metal oxide layer 23. When the dielectric layer 32 ~~33~~is thicker than 100 nm, there is a fear that the noble metal oxide layer 23 cannot be deformed sufficiently at the time of recording. In contrast, when the dielectric layer 32 is set to be not thinner than 20 nm and not thicker than 100 nm, it is possible to prevent excessive obstruction to deformation of the noble metal oxide layer 23 while protecting the noble metal oxide layer 23 sufficiently. The thickness of the dielectric layer 32 also has influence on signal characteristics at the time of reproducing data. When the dielectric layer 32 is set to be not thinner than 50 nm and not thicker than 70 nm, particularly to be about 60 nm thick, it is possible to obtain a high CNR.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at specification page 30, line 29, as follows:

The lens drive circuit 104 serves to supply the lens drive signal 104a to the actuator 115 under the control of the controller 105. As a result, the beam spot of the laser beam 40 can be focused accurately on the noble metal oxide layer 23 ~~32~~ of the optical recording medium 10, while the beam spot of the laser beam 40 can follow the eccentric groove 11a and/or the eccentric land 11b. That is, the controller 105 is provided with a focus control circuit 105a. When this focus control circuit 105a is brought into a focus-on state, the beam spot of the laser beam 40 is fixed into the state where the beam spot is focused on the noble metal oxide layer 23 ~~32~~ of the optical recording medium 10. Further, the controller 105 is provided with a tracking control circuit 105b. When this tracking control circuit 105b is brought into a tracking-on state, the beam spot of the laser beam 40 is put into a state where

the beam spot can automatically follow the groove 11a and/or the land 11b of the optical recording medium 10.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at specification page 32, line 11, as follows:

For example, the structure of the optical recording medium 10 shown in ~~FIG. 1~~ FIG. 1(a) and (b) is only a basic structure of an optical recording medium according to the present invention. The structure of the optical recording medium according to the present invention is not limited to this structure. For example, another noble metal oxide layer may be added to the substrate 11 side in view from the light absorbing layer 22, or another light absorbing layer may be added to the optically transparent layer 12 side in view from the noble metal oxide layer 23.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at specification page 32, line 28, as follows:

An optical recording medium sample having a structure in which the reflecting layer 21 was removed from the optical recording medium 10 shown in ~~FIG. 1~~ FIG. 1(a) and (b) was produced in the following method.